

RECOGNITION OF CANDYLAND DAYCARE AND PRESCHOOL'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the children of Candyland Daycare and Preschool in Rapid City, SD, in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the Upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, SD, to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for 3 weeks. The city of Bruce, SD, was completely under water when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice.

The 50,000 residents of Grand Forks, ND, and 10,000 residents of East Grand Forks, MN, were forced to leave their homes and businesses as the Red River overwhelmed their cities in April. The devastation was astounding; an entire city under water, and a fire that gutted a majority of Grand Forks' downtown. Residents of both cities recently were allowed to return to what is left of their homes, and the long and difficult process of rebuilding shattered lives is just beginning.

The children of Candyland Daycare and Preschool in Rapid City have been collecting toys, books, and puzzles for North Dakota flood victims. Many families escaped rising flood waters in the dead of night, often with only the clothes on their back, and ultimately lost everything in their homes. The goods collected by these children will help families rebuild their lives. The preschoolers also sent colored cards and a note that read: "Sorry to hear about the flood. Hope you'll be able to go home soon. Your South Dakota friends."

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness firsthand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. The selfless actions of the children at Candyland Daycare and Preschool illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair Grand Forks and other impacted commu-

nities. The children at Candyland Daycare and Preschool in Rapid City illustrate how the actions of a community can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking them for their selfless efforts. •

RECOGNITION OF DR. RONALD TESCH'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of Dr. Ronald Tesch of Brookings, SD, in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the Upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, SD, to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for 3 weeks. The city of Bruce, SD, was completely under water when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice.

The 50,000 residents of Grand Forks, ND, and 10,000 residents of East Grand Forks, MN, were forced to leave their homes and businesses as the Red River overwhelmed their cities in April. The devastation was astounding; an entire city underwater and a fire that gutted a majority of Grand Forks' downtown. Residents of both cities recently were allowed to return to what is left of their homes, and the long and difficult process of rebuilding shattered lives is just beginning.

Carl Madsen's daughter was one of many Grand Forks individuals who escaped rising flood waters in the dead of night, often with only the clothes on their back. Her son, who is 10 years old, wears eyeglasses and left them behind in their now demolished Grand Forks home. An optician, Dr. Ronald Tesch, was kind enough to give the boy an exam, new prescription, and eyeglasses all for free since Mr. Madsen's daughter had little money left.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness first-hand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. The selfless actions of individuals like Dr. Ronald Tesch illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair Grand Forks and other impacted communities. Dr. Ronald Tesch of Brookings, SD, illustrates how the actions of an individual can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking him for his selfless efforts. •

RECOGNITION OF BRAD STIEFVATER, TODD MATTHIES, AND DOUG MOKROS' ASSISTANCE DURING THE NATURAL DISASTERS OF 1997

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of the McCook County ambulance crew, Brad Stiefvater, Todd Matthies, and Doug Mokros, in ongoing disaster recovery efforts in South Dakota.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, SD to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for 3 weeks. The city of Bruce, SD was completely under water when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice.

At the height of the snowstorms in South Dakota, the McCook County ambulance crew was called to the home of Steve and Sheila Hoiten to deliver the couple's baby. Wind gusts of 40 miles per hour dropped the temperature to nearly 70 degrees below zero and created near white-out conditions as Brad, Todd, and Doug drove the family 45 miles to Sioux Falls. The ambulance crew battled drifts 8 to 9 feet high to get the couple safely to the hospital where Morgan Ann Hoiten was born, safe and sound.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's snowstorms and floods, I have been heartened to witness firsthand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from vicious winter weather and rising flood waters. The selfless actions of the McCook County ambulance crew illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair our impacted communities. Brad Stiefvater, Todd Matthies, and Doug Mokros of